[21st September 1956

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The hon. Member has built up his proposition on wrong premises which I do not accept. The Revenue Divisional Officers have been exercising their discretion properly and well.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : Is the practice of making elementary school teachers in villages, such postmasters still continued, and if so, have they time enough to attend to these duties in addition to their regular teaching work?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I think the subject of elementary school teachers is in the hands of the Hon. the Finance Minister.

Construction of bridge at Nileshwar

11-40 a.m. * 155 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 1044 on 19th May 1954—

(*a*) the present stage of the construction of the bridge at Nileshwar in South Kanara district; and

(*b*) why the work has been delayed?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) Nearly 85 per cent of the work has been completed by the end of June 1956. The work is expected to be completed by 31st December 1956.

(*b*) The delay in completing the work is due to some difficulties experienced in regard to foundation during the initial stages of the work. A series of tests had to be conducted before finalising the depth of foundations and determining the settlement characteristics of the foundation soil. Further work had to be resumed only after completing all those tests.

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Can it be expected that this work will be completed before the end of this year?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : That is what I have stated just now. It will be completed in December 1956, that is, the end of the year, I suppose.

Improvement of the Port at Azhikkal

* 156 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to improve the port of Azhikkal in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar;

(*b*) if so, the improvements that would be carried out; and

(*c*) the total estimated expenditure sanctioned for them?

21st September 1956]

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The works proposed to be carried out are :

(1) Formation of road and wharf—Estimated cost of Rs. 40,000.

(2) Construction of jetty—Estimated cost of Rs. 1,20,000.

(3) Provision of a tug—Estimated cost of Rs. 1,00,000.

(*c*) The estimates for the schemes have not yet been sanctioned.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know when the estimates of the schemes will be sanctioned and the works started?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : The work is proposed to be taken up for execution during the current year and necessary provision therefor (Rs. 30,000) has also been included in the Budget of the Azhikkal Landing and Shipping Fund for 1956–57. Acquisition of land for the work is pending with the Collector of Malabar and that is causing delay. Preparation of estimate for this work is proposed to be taken up shortly.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. Minister kindly take steps to expedite the acquisition of lands by asking the Collector to take suitable steps in the matter?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Yes, Sir, necessary steps would be taken to remind the Collector to expedite the work.

Construction of a pathway and a drinking-water well for the Akshikadu Harijan village

* 157 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Sri M. Jagannathan, is not in his seat. The question and answer will be printed in the proceedings.

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a petition, dated 28th April 1956 from the Harijans of Akshikadu village, Markanam firka in Tindivanam taluk, regarding the provision of a pathway in their burial ground and a drinking-water well in their cheri ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) No, Sir. The petition was received only by the Collector of South Arcot.

(*b*) The Collector of South Arcot has reported that he is taking action to acquire patta lands for these purposes.